



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - January 24, 2003

- ***In the West***, scattered rain and snow showers continue in ***northern California***, the ***Northwest***, and the ***southern Rockies***, but other areas remain unfavorably dry.
- ***On the Plains***, milder air is overspreading the region, easing winterkill concerns for winter wheat. A shallow protective snow cover remains in place on the ***northern Plains***, but much of the wheat crop remains exposed on the drought-affected ***central High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, bitterly cold, breezy weather continues to stress livestock and curtail outdoor activities.
- ***In the South***, ***central Florida's*** winter agricultural areas suffered through a damaging freeze this morning, with low temperatures ranging from 22 to 28 degrees F. Unharvested citrus fruits were likely damaged in some colder locations and will need to be processed in upcoming days, and some trees may have suffered leaf burn. Gusty winds (10 to 20 m.p.h.) made freeze protection measures difficult and may have damaged tender ground vegetation due to blowing sand. The freeze was significant and damaging to many ***central Florida*** winter crops, but less severe in ***southern Florida***, where low temperatures ranged from 28 to 34 degrees F.

Outlook: On Saturday, hard freezes are likely along the ***Gulf Coast***, while a light freeze is expected as far south as ***central Florida***. By Sunday, minimum temperatures are expected to remain above freezing in the ***Florida citrus-growing areas***. Elsewhere, another Arctic cold front will bring a chance of snow to the ***Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, a series of Pacific storms will maintain unsettled weather in the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 29 - February 2 calls for wetter-than-normal weather in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, and eastern one-third of the U.S.***, but mostly dry weather across the ***Plains and Southwest***. Above-normal temperatures are expected across much of the nation, although cooler-than-normal weather will linger in ***Florida***.

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